

REMARKS

The Examiner has restricted the invention of the subject application to one of the following inventions:

Group I Claims 1-18 Drawn to a method of forming substantially cylindrical conductors, classified in class 438, subclass 617.

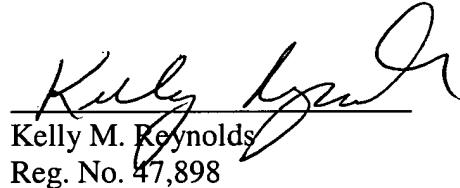
Group II Claims 19-20 Drawn to a conductive interconnect structure for preventing cracks in a dielectric layer on a substrate, classified in class 257, subclass 758.

Applicants traverse the restriction requirement on the grounds that 35 USC § 121 authorizes restriction only when the claimed invention is "independent and distinct."

It is respectfully submitted that the two groups are co-extensive, and as such, a search pertaining to one of the above-identified groups would necessarily encompass subject matter of the other group such that separate searches for each group would be unwarranted and duplicative. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the requirement for restriction.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the restriction requirement and an action on the merits of all the claims are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date indicated below as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner of Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Name: Carol M. Thomas Date: February 28, 2005 Signature: Carol M. Thomas
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